

USPTO Serial Number: 09/954,625
Applicant: William Turner
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney has assumed responsibility for the prosecution of the subject application. Applicant(s) file the enclosed Request for Continued Examination with this preliminary amendment to further the examination.

The Office Action dated April 26, 2005 rejects claims 24-27, 29-33, 35, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Freeman in view of Kinman. The Office Action further rejects claims 28 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Freeman and Kinman in view of Blucher et al. The Office Action further rejects claims 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Freeman in view of Blucher et al. Claims 24-40 have been canceled which renders the 103 rejection moot. Applicant(s) have added new claims 41-59 to clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art references.

New claim 41 recites an electric guitar comprising a solid body and a plurality of strings disposed along the solid body. A pickup is disposed on the solid body. The pickup includes upper and lower bobbins. A first wire coil is wrapped around the upper bobbin in a first direction. A second wire coil is wrapped around the lower bobbin in a second direction opposite to the first direction to produce a humbucking effect. A ferromagnetic plate is disposed between the upper and lower bobbins and has sufficient thickness to substantially isolate magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the ferromagnetic plate. A plurality of permanent magnetic rods are each disposed under one of the plurality of strings. The plurality of permanent magnetic rods extend through the upper and lower bobbins and through a plurality of openings in the ferromagnetic plate. A plurality of

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ferromagnetic slugs are disposed in openings of the upper and lower bobbins linearly between ones of the plurality of permanent magnetic rods to alter inductance of the pickup.

Applicant(s) believe that none of the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a ferromagnetic plate disposed between the upper and lower bobbins and having sufficient thickness to substantially isolate magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the ferromagnetic plate. Freeman has no discussion about the thickness of the ferromagnetic plate and does not consider the advantages of isolating the magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the plate, as provided in the present invention. In addition, none of the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a plurality of ferromagnetic slugs disposed in openings of the upper and lower bobbins linearly between ones of the plurality of permanent magnetic rods to alter inductance of the pickup. None of the prior art references have any such feature.

Accordingly, new claim 41 is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination. Claims 42-47 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

New claim 48 recites a pickup for an electric guitar comprising upper and lower bobbins. A first wire coil is wrapped around the upper bobbin in a first direction. A second wire coil is wrapped around the lower bobbin in a second direction opposite to the first direction to produce a humbucking effect. A ferromagnetic plate is disposed between the upper and lower bobbins and has sufficient thickness to substantially isolate magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the ferromagnetic plate. A plurality of permanent magnetic rods

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extending through the upper and lower bobbins and through a plurality of openings in the ferromagnetic plate. A ferromagnetic slug is disposed in the upper or lower bobbin linearly between ones of the plurality of permanent magnetic rods to alter inductance of the pickup.

Applicant(s) believe that none of the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a ferromagnetic plate disposed between the upper and lower bobbins and having sufficient thickness to substantially isolate magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the ferromagnetic plate. Freeman has no discussion about the thickness of the ferromagnetic plate and does not consider the advantages of isolating the magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the plate, as provided in the present invention. Moreover, none of the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest a ferromagnetic slug disposed in the upper or lower bobbin linearly between ones of the plurality of permanent magnetic rods to alter inductance of the pickup. None of the prior art references have any such feature.

Accordingly, new claim 48 is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination. Claims 49-54 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

New claim 55 recites a method of making a pickup for a musical instrument comprising the steps of providing upper and lower bobbins, wrapping a first wire coil around the upper bobbin, wrapping a second wire coil around the lower bobbin, disposing a ferromagnetic plate between the upper and lower bobbins, wherein the ferromagnetic plate has sufficient thickness to substantially isolate magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the

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ferromagnetic plate, extending a plurality of permanent magnetic rods through the upper and lower bobbins and through a plurality of openings in the ferromagnetic plate, and disposing a ferromagnetic slug in the upper or lower bobbin between ones of the plurality of permanent magnetic rods to alter inductance of the pickup.

Applicant(s) believe that none of the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest the step of disposing a ferromagnetic plate between the upper and lower bobbins, wherein the ferromagnetic plate has sufficient thickness to substantially isolate magnetic lines of force existing on either side of the ferromagnetic plate. Moreover, none of the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination, teach or suggest the step of disposing a ferromagnetic slug in the upper or lower bobbin between ones of the plurality of permanent magnetic rods to alter inductance of the pickup. None of the prior art references have any such feature.

Accordingly, new claim 55 is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references, taken singularly or in combination. Claims 55-59 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicant(s) believe that all information and requirements for the application have been provided to the USPTO. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, Applicant(s) invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due
with this Response to U.S. PTO Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,
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January 6, 2006

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